

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A property-manager system comprising:
 - a persistence layer ~~to store~~ that stores a plurality of properties in a computer-readable storage medium, each property including a name-value pair;
 - a property manager layer ~~to retrieve from the persistence layer values of those of the properties used by a first software application and to provide the values to the first software application at run time;~~
 - an application layer that offers services to applications having a variable dependent on one of the plurality of properties, the services being offered through an application programming interface provided by the application layer, the services including notifying an application having a variable dependent on a particular property when a notification of an update for the particular property is received; and
 - ~~a first property listener to modify values of program variables in the first software application that are dependent on the properties without having to restart the first software application;~~
 - ~~a user interface layer to accept user input to update at least one of the properties, wherein the persistence layer is responsive to the user interface layer to update the at least one of the properties in the computer-readable storage medium based on the user input, and wherein the user interface layer is to notify the property manager layer that the at least one of the properties has been updated;~~
 - an interface layer that accepts user input to update properties stored by the persistence layer, wherein the interface layer notifies the application layer of the update for the particular property
 - ~~wherein the property manager layer is to determine if any of the at least one of the properties that has been updated is used by the first software application, and to notify the first property listener of at least one updated property value used by the first software application based thereon; and~~
 - ~~wherein the first property listener is to modify at least one program variable in the first software application that is dependent on the at least one updated property value without restarting the first software application.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the application comprises:
an application class, the application class including a property listener that receives the notification, the property listener including a list of property keys of interest to the application
~~further comprising:~~
~~a second property listener to modify values of program variables in the second software application that are dependent on the properties without having to restart the second software application;~~
~~wherein the property manager layer is to determine if any of the at least one of the properties that has been updated is used by the second software application, and to notify the second property listener of at least one updated property value used by the second software application based thereon; and~~
~~wherein the second property listener is to modify at least one program variable in the second software application that is dependent on the at least one updated property value without restarting the second software application.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the application layer maintains a lookup table that records, for each of a plurality of property keys, a list of property listeners that have registered with the application layer to listen for that property key
~~wherein each of the properties is identified by an associated property key, and wherein the property manager layer comprises a lookup table to record, for each of the property keys, a list of property listeners that have registered for the property key.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the application class is an application class of a middleware application
~~wherein the first software application comprises a first application class of a middleware application, and wherein the second software application comprises a second application class of the middleware application.~~
5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the middleware application provides flow through from a plurality of ordering applications to at least one back-end application.
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 wherein the ~~property manager~~ application layer is contained within a common project within the middleware application.
7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 wherein the ~~property manager~~ application layer is contained in a client JAVA Archive (JAR) file.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 wherein the ~~property manager~~ application layer is contained in a Dynamic Link Library (DLL) file.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 1, wherein, ~~for each of at least one of the properties, the persistence layer stores information comprising~~ a version number, a time stamp, an author name, and a description associated therewith with at least one of the plurality of properties.
11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 1, wherein the ~~user interface layer is to display~~ displays a name, a value, ~~and~~ the information associated with at least one of the plurality of properties.
12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the ~~user interface layer is to accept~~ accepts user input to update the value associated with a property.
13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the ~~user interface layer is to accept~~ accepts user input to update the information associated with ~~a property~~ at least one of the plurality properties.
14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the ~~user interface layer further is to display~~ displays a time stamp associated with the at least one of the plurality of properties.
15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~user interface layer accepts~~ user input to add a property, to modify a property, and to delete a property.
16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~user interface layer is to organize~~ organizes and displays the properties in a plurality of categories.
17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~user interface layer comprises~~ a Web interface layer.
18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~user interface layer is to display~~ displays the properties in a searchable format.
19. (Canceled).
20. (Canceled).

21. (New) A method comprising:

accepting, into an interface layer of a property-manager system, user input to update a first property stored in a computer-readable storage medium, the first property including a name-value pair;

in response to accepting the user input, notifying an application layer of the system of the updated first property, the application layer offering services to applications that have a variable dependent on the first property, the services being offered through an application programming interface provided by the application layer, the services including notifying an application having a variable dependent on a particular property when an update for the particular property is received; and

in response to the application layer being notified of the updated first property, notifying an application having a variable dependent on the first property of the updated first property, wherein the notifying the application is performed by the application layer.

22. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code executable by a computer system to:

accept, into an interface layer of a property-manager system, user input to update a first property stored in a computer-readable storage medium, the first property including a name-value pair;

notify an application layer of the system of the updated first property in response to accepting the user input, the application layer offering services to applications that have a variable dependent on the first property, the services being offered through an application programming interface provided by the application layer, the services including notifying an application having a variable dependent on a particular property when an update for the particular property is received; and

notify an application having a variable dependent on the first property of the updated first property, wherein the notifying the application is performed by the application layer.